

the condition of education 2006



INDICATOR 1

Enrollment Trends by Age

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

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All Ages

Enrollment Trends by Age

Between 1970 and 2004, the enrollment rate increased among those ages 18–34, when individuals typically enroll in postsecondary education. During this period, the overall school enrollment rate of those ages 18–19 increased from 48 to 64 percent.

Enrollment can change due to fluctuations in population size or shifts in enrollment rates. This indicator looks at the enrollment rates of individuals ages 3–34 to identify changes in the enrollment behavior of the population, which may reflect changes in the perceived value or cost of education, or the time taken to complete degrees.

Between 1970 and 2004, the enrollment rate of children ages 3–4, who are typically in nursery school, increased from 20 to 54 percent. Although some of this increase may be due to changes in the method of collecting these data in 1994, the rate of nursery school attendance had already doubled before this change (see supplemental table 1-1). The enrollment rate of children ages 5–6, who are typically enrolled in kindergarten or 1st grade, increased from 90 percent in 1970 to 96 percent in 1977 and has remained about the same since. This high enrollment rate is notable because kindergarten is not required in many states.¹ Youth ages 7–13 are required to enroll in elementary or secondary education by state law; thus their enrollment rate has been very high (between 98 and 99 percent) over the past three decades. The

maximum compulsory age of school attendance varies by state between ages 16 and 18 and that may contribute to the lower enrollment rates for 14- to 17-year-olds (between 93 and 97 percent) compared with the rates for 7- to 13-year-olds (Education Commission of the States 2005a).

Youth ages 18–19 are typically moving from secondary to either postsecondary education or into the workforce. Between 1970 and 2004, the enrollment rate for these youth increased at the elementary/secondary level (from 10 to 17 percent) and at the postsecondary level (from 37 to 48 percent), bringing up the overall enrollment rate of youth ages 18–19 from 48 to 64 percent.

Adults ages 20–34 who are enrolled in school are usually enrolled in postsecondary education. Between 1970 and 2004, the enrollment rate of adults ages 20–24 increased from 22 to 35 percent. Within this age group, the enrollment rate of adults ages 20–21 increased from 32 to 49 percent, and the enrollment rate of those ages 22–24 increased from 15 to 26 percent. Among older adults, the enrollment rate increased from 8 to 13 percent for those ages 25–29 and from 4 to 7 percent for those ages 30–34.

¹ As of April 2005, there were 36 states or jurisdictions that did not mandate kindergarten attendance (Education Commission of the States 2005b).

² Beginning in 1994, new procedures were used to collect preprimary enrollment data. As such, numbers before 1994 may not be comparable to 1994 or later numbers.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Includes enrollment in any type of public or private nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, high school, college, university, or professional school. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Enrollments in all “special” postsecondary schools, such as trade schools, business colleges, or correspondence schools, are not included. Data are based upon sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. In 1994, the survey methodology for the Current Population Survey (CPS) was changed and weights were adjusted. See supplemental note 2 for more information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), table 7. Data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2004.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

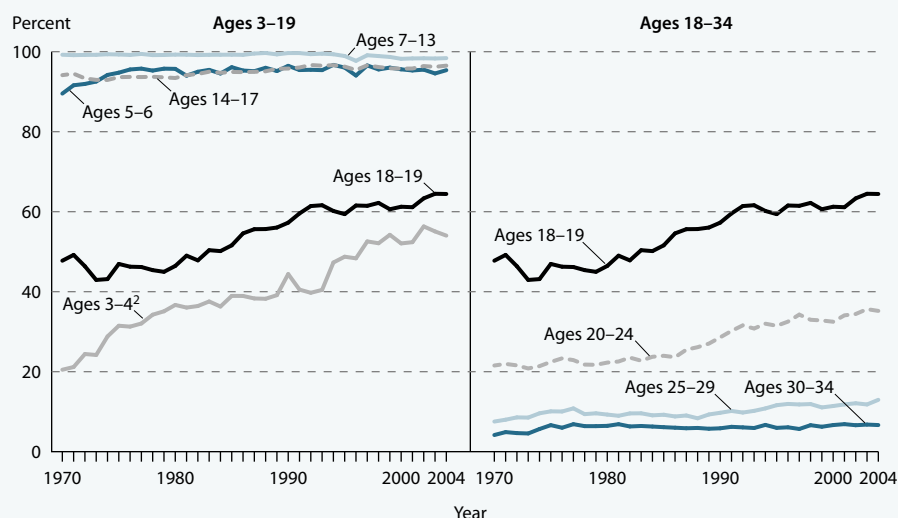
Supplemental Note 2

Supplemental Table 1-1

Education Commission of the States 2005a, 2005b



ENROLLMENT RATES: Percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2004



Enrollment Trends by Age

Table 1-1. Percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2004

October	Total ages 3–34	Ages 3–4 ¹	Ages 5–6	Ages 7–13	Ages 14–17	Ages 18–19			Ages 20–24				
						Total	In elementary/ secondary	In post- secondary	Total	Ages 20–21	Ages 22–24	Ages 25–29	Ages 30–34
1970	56.4	20.5	89.5	99.2	94.1	47.7	10.5	37.3	21.5	31.9	14.9	7.5	4.2
1971	56.2	21.2	91.6	99.1	94.5	49.2	11.5	37.7	21.9	32.2	15.4	8.0	4.9
1972	54.9	24.4	91.9	99.2	93.3	46.3	10.4	35.9	21.6	31.4	14.8	8.6	4.6
1973	53.5	24.2	92.5	99.2	92.9	42.9	10.0	32.9	20.8	30.1	14.5	8.5	4.5
1974	53.6	28.8	94.2	99.3	92.9	43.1	9.9	33.2	21.4	30.2	15.1	9.6	5.7
1975	53.7	31.5	94.7	99.3	93.6	46.9	10.2	36.7	22.4	31.2	16.2	10.1	6.6
1976	53.1	31.3	95.5	99.2	93.7	46.2	10.2	36.0	23.3	32.0	17.1	10.0	6.0
1977	52.5	32.0	95.8	99.4	93.7	46.2	10.4	35.7	22.9	31.8	16.5	10.8	6.9
1978	51.2	34.2	95.3	99.1	93.7	45.4	9.8	35.6	21.8	29.5	16.3	9.4	6.4
1979	50.3	35.1	95.8	99.2	93.6	45.0	10.3	34.6	21.7	30.2	15.8	9.6	6.4
1980	49.7	36.7	95.7	99.3	93.4	46.4	10.5	35.9	22.3	31.0	16.3	9.3	6.4
1981	48.9	36.0	94.0	99.2	94.1	49.0	11.5	37.5	22.5	31.6	16.5	9.0	6.9
1982	48.6	36.4	95.0	99.2	94.4	47.8	11.3	36.5	23.5	34.0	16.8	9.6	6.3
1983	48.4	37.5	95.4	99.2	95.0	50.4	12.8	37.6	22.7	32.5	16.6	9.6	6.4
1984	47.9	36.3	94.5	99.2	94.7	50.1	11.5	38.6	23.7	33.9	17.3	9.1	6.3
1985	48.3	38.9	96.1	99.2	94.9	51.6	11.2	40.4	24.0	35.3	16.9	9.2	6.1
1986	48.2	38.9	95.3	99.2	94.9	54.6	13.1	41.5	23.6	33.0	17.9	8.8	6.0
1987	48.6	38.3	95.1	99.5	95.0	55.6	13.1	42.5	25.5	38.7	17.5	9.0	5.8
1988	48.7	38.2	96.0	99.7	95.1	55.6	13.9	41.8	26.1	39.1	18.2	8.3	5.9
1989	49.0	39.1	95.2	99.3	95.7	56.0	14.4	41.6	27.0	38.5	19.9	9.3	5.7
1990	50.2	44.4	96.5	99.6	95.8	57.2	14.5	42.7	28.6	39.7	21.0	9.7	5.8
1991	50.7	40.5	95.4	99.6	96.0	59.6	15.6	44.0	30.2	42.0	22.2	10.2	6.2
1992	51.4	39.7	95.5	99.4	96.7	61.4	17.1	44.3	31.6	44.0	23.7	9.8	6.1
1993	51.8	40.4	95.4	99.5	96.5	61.6	17.2	44.4	30.8	42.7	23.6	10.2	5.9
1994	53.3	47.3	96.7	99.4	96.6	60.2	16.2	43.9	32.0	44.9	24.0	10.8	6.7
1995	53.7	48.7	96.0	98.9	96.3	59.4	16.3	43.1	31.5	44.9	23.2	11.6	5.9
1996	54.1	48.3	94.0	97.7	95.4	61.5	16.7	44.9	32.5	44.4	24.8	11.9	6.1
1997	55.6	52.6	96.5	99.1	96.6	61.5	16.7	44.7	34.3	45.9	26.4	11.8	5.7
1998	55.8	52.1	95.6	98.9	96.1	62.2	15.7	46.4	33.0	44.8	24.9	11.9	6.6
1999	56.0	54.2	96.0	98.7	95.8	60.6	16.5	44.1	32.8	45.3	24.5	11.1	6.2
2000	55.9	52.1	95.6	98.2	95.7	61.2	16.5	44.7	32.5	44.1	24.6	11.4	6.7
2001	56.4	52.4	95.3	98.3	95.8	61.1	17.1	44.0	34.1	46.1	25.5	11.8	6.9
2002	56.2	56.3	95.5	98.3	96.4	63.3	18.0	45.3	34.4	47.8	25.6	12.1	6.6
2003	56.2	55.1	94.5	98.3	96.2	64.5	17.9	46.6	35.6	48.3	27.8	11.8	6.8
2004	56.2	54.0	95.4	98.4	96.5	64.4	16.6	47.8	35.2	48.9	26.3	13.0	6.6

¹ Beginning in 1994, new procedures were used to collect preprimary enrollment data. As such, numbers before 1994 may not be comparable to 1994 or later numbers.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Includes enrollment in any type of public or private nursery school, kindergarten, elementary school, high school, college, university, or professional school. Attendance may be on either a full-time or part-time basis and during the day or night. Enrollments in all "special" postsecondary schools, such as trade schools, business colleges, or correspondence schools, are not included. Data are based upon sample surveys of the civilian noninstitutional population. In 1994, the survey methodology for the Current Population Survey (CPS) was changed and weights were adjusted. See *supplemental note 2* for more information.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), table 7. Data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2004.

Enrollment Trends by Age

Table S1. Standard errors for the percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2004

October	Ages							
	3–4	5–6	7–13	14–17	18–19	20–24	25–29	30–34
1970	0.73	0.53	0.08	0.27	0.85	0.47	0.33	0.27
1971	0.75	0.49	0.08	0.26	0.84	0.46	0.33	0.29
1972	0.80	0.50	0.08	0.28	0.82	0.45	0.33	0.27
1973	0.78	0.49	0.08	0.28	0.81	0.44	0.32	0.26
1974	0.83	0.43	0.08	0.28	0.80	0.44	0.33	0.29
1975	0.87	0.41	0.08	0.27	0.80	0.44	0.33	0.30
1976	0.90	0.38	0.09	0.27	0.79	0.44	0.33	0.28
1977	0.93	0.38	0.07	0.27	0.80	0.44	0.34	0.30
1978	0.94	0.41	0.09	0.27	0.80	0.43	0.31	0.28
1979	0.95	0.40	0.09	0.28	0.79	0.42	0.31	0.28
1980	0.95	0.40	0.09	0.29	0.80	0.43	0.30	0.27
1981	0.92	0.46	0.09	0.27	0.80	0.42	0.29	0.27
1982	0.96	0.44	0.10	0.29	0.85	0.45	0.31	0.27
1983	0.94	0.42	0.09	0.27	0.86	0.44	0.31	0.27
1984	0.92	0.45	0.09	0.28	0.88	0.45	0.30	0.27
1985	0.94	0.38	0.09	0.27	0.89	0.46	0.30	0.26
1986	0.93	0.40	0.10	0.28	0.90	0.46	0.29	0.25
1987	0.93	0.41	0.07	0.28	0.89	0.48	0.30	0.25
1988	1.01	0.41	0.07	0.30	0.96	0.53	0.31	0.27
1989	1.00	0.44	0.09	0.29	0.95	0.55	0.33	0.26
1990	0.99	0.37	0.06	0.28	0.94	0.54	0.33	0.25
1991	0.96	0.41	0.06	0.27	0.96	0.55	0.34	0.26
1992	0.95	0.41	0.08	0.25	0.96	0.56	0.34	0.26
1993	0.93	0.41	0.07	0.25	0.95	0.56	0.35	0.25
1994	0.87	0.32	0.08	0.22	0.87	0.51	0.33	0.25
1995	0.87	0.34	0.10	0.23	0.85	0.52	0.34	0.24
1996	0.91	0.43	0.15	0.26	0.87	0.55	0.36	0.25
1997	0.92	0.33	0.09	0.22	0.86	0.55	0.36	0.25
1998	0.92	0.37	0.10	0.24	0.84	0.55	0.37	0.27
1999	0.93	0.36	0.11	0.24	0.84	0.54	0.36	0.27
2000	0.93	0.38	0.13	0.25	0.84	0.53	0.37	0.28
2001	0.88	0.37	0.12	0.24	0.83	0.53	0.38	0.28
2002	0.89	0.37	0.12	0.22	0.83	0.52	0.37	0.27
2003	0.85	0.40	0.12	0.21	0.80	0.50	0.34	0.26
2004	0.85	0.37	0.12	0.21	0.80	0.49	0.35	0.26

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), table 7. Data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2004.

Enrollment Trends by Age

Table S1-1. Standard errors for the percentage of the population ages 3–34 enrolled in school, by age group: October 1970–2004

October	Total ages 3–34	Ages 3–4	Ages 5–6	Ages 7–13	Ages 14–17	Ages 18–19			Ages 20–24				
						Total	In elementary/ secondary	In post- secondary	Total	Ages 20–21	Ages 22–24	Ages 25–29	Ages 30–34
1970	0.22	0.73	0.53	0.08	0.27	0.85	0.52	0.83	0.47	0.85	0.52	0.33	0.27
1971	0.21	0.75	0.49	0.08	0.26	0.84	0.54	0.81	0.46	0.83	0.51	0.33	0.29
1972	0.21	0.80	0.50	0.08	0.28	0.82	0.50	0.79	0.45	0.79	0.50	0.33	0.27
1973	0.21	0.78	0.49	0.08	0.28	0.81	0.49	0.77	0.44	0.78	0.49	0.32	0.26
1974	0.21	0.83	0.43	0.08	0.28	0.80	0.48	0.76	0.44	0.76	0.50	0.33	0.29
1975	0.21	0.87	0.41	0.08	0.27	0.80	0.48	0.77	0.44	0.76	0.51	0.33	0.30
1976	0.21	0.90	0.38	0.09	0.27	0.79	0.48	0.76	0.44	0.75	0.51	0.33	0.28
1977	0.21	0.93	0.38	0.07	0.27	0.80	0.49	0.77	0.44	0.75	0.51	0.34	0.30
1978	0.21	0.94	0.41	0.09	0.27	0.80	0.48	0.77	0.43	0.73	0.50	0.31	0.28
1979	0.21	0.95	0.40	0.09	0.28	0.79	0.48	0.76	0.42	0.74	0.49	0.31	0.28
1980	0.21	0.95	0.40	0.09	0.29	0.80	0.49	0.77	0.43	0.74	0.49	0.30	0.27
1981	0.21	0.92	0.46	0.09	0.27	0.80	0.51	0.78	0.42	0.73	0.48	0.29	0.27
1982	0.22	0.96	0.44	0.10	0.29	0.85	0.54	0.81	0.45	0.79	0.50	0.31	0.27
1983	0.22	0.94	0.42	0.09	0.27	0.86	0.57	0.83	0.44	0.79	0.50	0.31	0.27
1984	0.22	0.92	0.45	0.09	0.28	0.88	0.56	0.86	0.45	0.80	0.51	0.30	0.27
1985	0.22	0.94	0.38	0.09	0.27	0.89	0.56	0.88	0.46	0.83	0.51	0.30	0.26
1986	0.22	0.93	0.40	0.10	0.28	0.90	0.61	0.89	0.46	0.83	0.53	0.29	0.25
1987	0.22	0.93	0.41	0.07	0.28	0.89	0.60	0.89	0.48	0.88	0.53	0.30	0.25
1988	0.24	1.01	0.41	0.07	0.30	0.96	0.67	0.95	0.53	0.96	0.60	0.31	0.27
1989	0.22	1.00	0.44	0.09	0.29	0.95	0.68	0.95	0.55	0.97	0.63	0.33	0.26
1990	0.23	0.99	0.37	0.06	0.28	0.94	0.67	0.94	0.54	0.92	0.63	0.33	0.25
1991	0.22	0.96	0.41	0.06	0.27	0.96	0.71	0.97	0.55	0.92	0.64	0.34	0.26
1992	0.22	0.95	0.41	0.08	0.25	0.96	0.74	0.98	0.56	0.95	0.65	0.34	0.26
1993	0.22	0.93	0.41	0.07	0.25	0.95	0.74	0.97	0.56	0.97	0.65	0.35	0.25
1994	0.21	0.87	0.32	0.08	0.22	0.87	0.65	0.88	0.51	0.88	0.59	0.33	0.25
1995	0.21	0.87	0.34	0.10	0.23	0.85	0.64	0.86	0.52	0.89	0.60	0.34	0.24
1996	0.22	0.91	0.43	0.15	0.26	0.87	0.67	0.89	0.55	0.93	0.65	0.36	0.25
1997	0.22	0.92	0.33	0.09	0.22	0.86	0.66	0.88	0.55	0.91	0.66	0.36	0.25
1998	0.22	0.92	0.37	0.10	0.24	0.84	0.63	0.86	0.55	0.91	0.65	0.37	0.27
1999	0.22	0.93	0.36	0.11	0.24	0.84	0.64	0.85	0.54	0.90	0.64	0.36	0.27
2000	0.22	0.93	0.38	0.13	0.25	0.84	0.64	0.85	0.53	0.88	0.63	0.37	0.28
2001	0.22	0.88	0.37	0.12	0.24	0.83	0.64	0.84	0.53	0.87	0.64	0.38	0.28
2002	0.21	0.89	0.37	0.12	0.22	0.83	0.67	0.86	0.52	0.87	0.62	0.37	0.27
2003	0.20	0.85	0.40	0.12	0.21	0.80	0.64	0.84	0.50	0.83	0.59	0.34	0.26
2004	0.20	0.85	0.37	0.12	0.21	0.80	0.62	0.83	0.49	0.82	0.58	0.35	0.26

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (forthcoming). *Digest of Education Statistics, 2005* (NCES 2006-030), table 7. Data from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), October Supplement, 1970–2004.